



Seismic Safety Commission

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GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNED IMPORTANT EARTHQUAKE LEGISLATION BEFORE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK

Sacramento – Within days of Governor Schwarzenegger signing important earthquake legislation last week, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake in Parkfield rocked Central California. The quake was felt from Los Angeles to Sacramento and located 20 miles north of Paso Robles. In 2003, Paso Robles experienced a magnitude 6.5 earthquake that took two lives and caused over \$250 million in damage. The earthquake bills signed by the Governor demonstrate California's commitment to prepare for earthquakes. California cannot avoid earthquakes but can take preventative steps to minimize loss of life and property.

AB 3032 (Yee) allows owners of retrofitted unreinforced brick buildings to remove posted entry-area warning signs. Unretrofitted brick buildings must post a warning sign. The law, sponsored by Seismic Safety Commission, is intended to reward building owners who make their buildings safer.

AB 3033 (Yee) encourages the retrofitting of unreinforced brick buildings by not requiring the linking of other non-seismic improvements which could be a hardship to the building owner.

The recent Parkfield earthquake demonstrates all too clearly that California should never become complacent in planning and preparing for earthquakes. Californians remember the Northridge and Loma Prieta earthquakes. Dr. Lucile M. Jones, Chairman of the Seismic Safety Commission and Scientist-in-charge for Southern California Earthquake Hazards Team of the U. S. Geological Survey states "The Parkfield 2004 earthquake is a great opportunity in earthquake science because of the foresight and dedication of the United States Geological Survey and the California Geological Survey to invest in instrumentation over decades to catch this earthquake. The investment of the State in earthquake mitigation through the legislation signed this week by Governor Schwarzenegger will likewise lead to savings of life and property in future earthquakes." The Commission applauds the Governor for his intuitive foresight in signing these important bills. This legislation will have a direct affect on furthering life safety.

